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without flaw, and one of the finest in the oratorio, it may be mentioned, was sadly interfered with by the retreating feet of the luncheon seekers, the noise of which was unseemly and inopportune. The second evening concert contained a choicer selection than the first. The first part was confined to Mozart, the *Zauberflöte*, *Idomeneo*, *Figaro*, the *Clemenza di Tito*, and the *Seraglio* and comprised a series of gems, most of which were as familiar to the hearer as "household words." It is needless to say that Mdle. Parepa sang the beautiful air, "Zeffiretti lusinghieri" charmingly; and that "Crudel perche," in the hands of Mdle. Titiens and Signor Bossi, was admirable. Among the best incidents of the Mozartean selection were the "Deh per questo," sung by Mr. Sims Reeves; the "Che pur aspro," by Mdle. Titiens; and the "Placido e il mar," by Miss Eleonora Wilkinson, Madame Laura Baxter, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Winn. The "Exhibition Ode" of Dr. Sterndale Bennett was the leading event of the second section of the scheme; but it seems to be the fate of this fine work to be seldom executed as it should be. The delivery at Gloucester was no exception to this unfortunate rule. To this succeeded Like's pretty aria, "Summer is sweet," which Mr. Sims Reeves gave so thoroughly to the satisfaction of the audience as to render a repeat inevitable, notwithstanding the official edict against encores. Auber's song, "Le serment," was sung by Mdle. Parepa, just as brilliantly as she has sung it times out of number in London; and with Mr. Weiss's version of Schubert's "Wanderer" the London amateur is equally familiar. The remainder of the programme consisted of *morceaux*, all more or less known, sung by Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mdle. Titiens, and others. The special contributions of the band were the overtures to the *Zauberflöte* and *Der Freischütz*, and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March," but neither they nor the accompaniments to the vocalists were too well given. The performances in the cathedral on Thursday morning were the "Lobgesang" of Mendelssohn, and an abridged edition of Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*. The hymn was rendered admirably, Mdle. Parepa and Mr. Montem Smith being the principal vocalists, and both extremely effective. The chorus singers exerted themselves with signal ability; while the symphony which precedes the work, one of Mendelssohn's greatest orchestral triumphs, has seldom been more closely and intelligently performed, even in the metropolis. The quotations from the *Judas Maccabeus* will be easily guessed by a reference to the score of the oratorio. All the most popular pieces were, of course, retained. It is sufficient to say that Mdle. Titiens in "Pious orgies" and "From mighty kings;" Mr. Sims Reeves in "Call forth thy powers," "Sound an alarm," and "How vain is man;" and Mr. Weiss in "Arm, arm, ye brave," were grandly successful; while the other vocalists, Miss Eleonora Wilkinson, Madame Laura Baxter, and Mr. Montem Smith, were at least careful, and in some instances especially praiseworthy. The choruses were delivered with tolerable steadiness, though, here and there, there might have been superior precision and more picturesque contrast. It may be mentioned that the oratorio was performed without the additional accompaniments written either by Costa or Perry. Handel, in fact, was represented in all his orchestral purity, though, in this case, hardly to the advantage that is experienced in Exeter Hall. The third of the evening concerts at the Shire Hall attracted a large audience. Benedict's *Undine*, given entire, occupied nearly the whole of the first part. The composer was fortunate in his solo executants, for they were Mdle. Titiens, Mr. Sims Reeves, Madame Sainton-Dolby, and Mr. Weiss. The cantata in other respects was not at times so well interpreted as it might have been, but, upon the whole, there was not much to find fault with. The miscellaneous pieces comprised a variety of operatic extracts, mingled with popular songs and ballads, in which all the principal vocalists were concerned, much to the delight of the auditory; and the concert terminated with a vigorous delivery of the National Anthem. The musical portion of the festival came to a conclusion on Friday morning, with the per-

formance, in the Cathedral, of Handel's *Messiah*. Upwards of 2500 persons were present, and the oratorio thus exercised its old influence, which, happily, seems never destined to be disturbed. The proceeding of the week came to a final close with a grand dress ball at the Shire Hall.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A Subscriber who wishes for information as to anthems suitable for the opening of an organ, would probably find something suited to his choir in the numbers of the "Musical Times," where there are easy anthems upon a variety of subjects.

S. S., who enquires whether there is any college for students in music, is advised to apply to the Royal Academy of Music, in Tenterden Street, Hanover Square, for a prospectus.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slip in the paper near it.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence, otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance. All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer.

#### Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

**BARNSBURY.**—The quarterly *soirée* of the Barnsbury Literary Institute was held at Myddelton Hall, Islington, on Friday, September 19th, at which the following artistes appeared: Miss J. Ross, Miss M. Warren, Miss C. Ellerie, Miss Lizzie Wilson, Mr. Lambert, and Mr. Henry Lawrence.

**BLACKBURN.**—The members of the Amateur Musical Society gave a concert of sacred music at the Town Hall, on the 28th of August, in aid of the distressed operatives. The music consisted of Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum* and a selection of songs and choruses. The principal vocalists were Miss Smith, Miss Cliffe, and Messrs. Towers, Baron, and Birkett. The band and chorus numbered upwards of 120 performers, and the concert was conducted by Mr. Armstrong.

**BURNLEY.**—The Choral Society gave a concert in the Mechanics' Institution Assembly Room, on the 28th of August, in aid of the fund for the relief of distressed operatives, when the sum of £23 9s. was realised. A selection from *Judas Maccabeus* formed the first part of the programme, and the *Lay of the Bell* the second part. Mrs. Warren, Miss Cragg, Mr. Comstive, and Mr. Nuttall were the principal vocalists. Mr. James Pollard was the conductor, and Mr. C. Gaukrodger leader of the orchestra.

**CHIPPING NORTON, OXON.**—A concert was given at this town, on the 2nd of September, on the occasion of the Annual Flower Show. The vocalists were Miss Marian Walsh and Mr. John Rudkin, from the Royal Academy of Music. Pianiste, Mr. H. R. Evers. R.A.M. The band of the Grenadier Guards played a selection of operatic music, under the direction of Mr. D. Godfrey. The concert was thoroughly appreciated by a large audience.

**CHORLTON TEMPERANCE HALL.**—Mr. R. Andrews' concert of vocal and instrumental music took place on the 8th ult., in aid of the Chorlton Relief Fund. The performers were Mr. Andrews, the Misses Andrews, and Master Andrews, and also Miss Flinn. The sum of £4 will be available for the fund.

**CLERKENWELL.**—On Tuesday, the 16th ult., a musical entertainment was given by the members of the choir of

**St. Barnabas Church, Kings-square,** at which a testimonial consisting of three handsomely-bound music-books was presented by the choir to Miss Bromley, the organist, for her gratuitous exertions in conducting the music of the church.

**ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**—At a recent meeting of this society a resolution was passed to terminate the connection at present existing with the Motett Choir, in consequence of which it is intended by the gentlemen connected with this choir to carry it on as an independent society.

**FOLKESTONE.**—The members of the Choral Society, on Thursday, Sept. 18, gave a concert at the Town Hall, in aid of the fund for relieving the distress in the cotton districts. The choir, consisting of about forty performers, gave their gratuitous services, and were most ably assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Winn, and Mr. Fielding, of London, who sang a number of songs, duets, and trios, eliciting much applause. Mr. Clifton conducted.

**HOXTON.**—The Musical Union gave a concert at Myddelton Hall, Islington, on Monday, Sept. 8. The performance consisted of Stevens's choral music, with various songs, choruses, glees, &c., and some overtures and quadrilles by the band. The solo performers were the Misses E. Hadley, Jenneson, and E. Wilson; Messrs. Evans, Thompson, and Shepherd. The choral music was efficiently sung by the ladies and gentlemen of the choir. Mr. Stevens was the conductor; and Mr. Lewis the pianist.

**LURGAN.**—At a recent meeting of the Church Committee of Lurgan, Mr. James Malcolm, a resident in the town, intimated his intention of presenting a new organ for the use of the church. This munificent gift deserves to be recorded. The instrument will be built by Mr. Walker, of London.

**MARSTON.**—The Choral Society of this place gave a concert of sacred and secular music on the 27th of August, under the direction of Mr. Diemer, in aid of the organ fund, when the receipts amounted to £10 6s.

**NEWENT.**—On the 18th of August, Mr. W. Radford, organist of the parish church, gave his annual concert at the George Hotel Assembly Rooms. The room was crowded by a large audience. The principal singers were Miss Marian Moss and Messrs. Hunt, Beckett, and Mugford, assisted by choristers of Gloucester Cathedral and members of the Gloucester Choral Society. The programme contained several instrumental pieces. Mr. Radford conducted; Mr. Hart, leader; and Mr. J. A. Matthews presided at the pianoforte.

**NEW MUSIC.**—The "Prince of Wales" cantata, composed by Mr. John Owen in celebration of the birth-place of the first Prince and the majority of the present Prince of Wales, has just been published by Messrs. Hughes and Son, of Wrexham. A prize was awarded to Mr. Owen for this composition at the last National Eisteddfod, held during the summer at Carnarvon, and it well deserved such a distinction. The music is simple, with abundance of melody, and is well adapted to small choral societies, who are much in want of cantatas of this nature. The choruses are effective, and several well-known Welsh airs are happily introduced. There are both Welsh and English words adapted to the music, which will necessarily induce a large sale of the work in the principality. The Welsh words are by Mr. J. Ceiriog Hughes, and the translation by Mr. Roberts.

**ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.**—Mr. Thirtle (pupil of Dr. Buck, of Norwich) has been appointed to St. Barnabas, Pimlico. —Mr. J. Edward Pearson to Trinity Church, Huddersfield. —Miss Anne Hobdill to Long Ashton Church, near Bristol.

**ROTHERHITHE.**—On Wednesday evening, August 27th, at the Church of St. Gregory by St. Paul's, a trial took place under the direction of the Rev. J. C. Haden, Precentor of Westminster Abbey, of four anthems and two canons—one 4 in 1, on the 5th, the other 4 in 1, on the 4th, composed by Joseph C. Tiley, organist of Christ Church,

Rotherhithe. The vocalists were Messrs. Shoubridge, Fielding, and Mattacks, vicars-choral of St. Paul's, and several of the choristers. The anthems were sung with precision. Mr. Tiley presided at the organ, and between the anthems played several pieces from his "Pedal Fugues" in all the keys, in a masterly style. The performance produced upon the Rev. Precentor and those present an impression in favour of the composer, who is in his twentieth year, and was preferred to a seat in a stall at Westminster Abbey in December last.

**ST. ANDREW'S, WELLS STREET, CHOIR.**—Mr. Chistian, (Baritone,) from Lincoln Cathedral, and Mr. John Rudkin, (Basso profundo,) from the Royal Academy of Music, have been appointed to fill the vacancies in this choir.

**SWANSEA.**—On the 9th ult., an evening concert was given by Mr. Allard, at the Town Hall, which was well attended, and proved most successful.

**TESTIMONIAL TO MR. BENEDICT.**—On the 8th of August a testimonial was presented to Mr. Benedict by the ladies of the Vocal Association, as a mark of their appreciation of his valuable services in conducting the rehearsals and performances of the society. The testimonial consisted of a stationary case, an ink stand, and book slide. A long complimentary address was read upon the occasion, and Mr. Benedict returned thanks in an appropriate speech.

**TONBRIDGE WELLS.**—Two concerts, morning and evening, were given at the Corn Exchange, on the 18th of September, in aid of the Cotton District Relief Fund. The principal vocalists were Miss Fosbrooke, and Messrs. Taylor and Gough. Pianoforte, Miss Russell and Mr. Paine.

**WEST BROMWICH.**—A concert was given in St. George's Hall on the 25th of August, by the members of the Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Hill Top Singing Classes, under the direction of Mr. Candellent. The spacious building was well filled, and the music was sung with correctness.

**WHITBY.**—Two concerts were given in St. Hilda's Hall on the 3rd of September, by Miss Maria Wilson, of Hall, assisted by Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Turner, of York.

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